MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): തോക്കാം.

Licenses for the use of Fire-arms.

92. MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware:

(i) that the licenses granted by the District Magistrate of Devicolam do not authorise Indian planters to carry their fire-arms outside their own estates;

(ii) that for the purpose of self-defence there is greater need for fire-arms outside than within the estates; and

(iii) that the licenses given to European planters enable them to carry their fire-arms outside their estates also; and

(*b*) whether, if such distinction exists, they will do the needful in the matter with a view to removing the same?

MR. P N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (i), (ii) and (iii) The District Magistrate, Devicolam, grants licenses in Form XIII generally restricting the possession and use of fire-arms covered by them within estate limits. This he does in exercise of the discretion vested in him by law and in the interests of forest and game protection. He however states that no invidious distinction is maintained in this matter between Indian and European planters and that licenses valid for a Taluk or District are issued in all cases when the applicant has taken out a license to shoot from the Conservator of Forests.

(*b*) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*) above.

Culverts on the banks of the canal from Chakkey to Veli.

93. MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many culverts have been built on the banks of the canal leading from Chakkey to Veli in the Trivandrum taluk;

(*b*) how many of these are provided with sluices; and

(*c*) whether they are aware that, owing to the absence of sluices, salt water from the canal flows into cultivated paddy fields and injures paddy crops?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Eleven.

(*b*) One.

(*c*) In ordinary high water, the people interested close the field-end of the culverts with silt so as to prevent the inflow of water. On the other hand, if there is flow in the canal *i. e.*, when the gauge at Chakkey reads 4½ feet or 5 feet, the western bank of the canal from the 1st mile, 2nd furlong to the 4th mile between Kalpalakadavu and Veli will be under 3 to 4 feet of water and salt water will freely get into the fields, not through the culverts but by overflow, owing to the low level of the banks.

Posting of Excise Subordinates.

94. MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is anything to guide them in the matter of posting Excise peons and Sub-Inspectors in particular places in a taluk?

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